



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 22, 2026

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NO. 12

*Pastoral Vacancy*

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Guest Preacher: Seminarian Kyle Bliss

Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching *LSB pg. 260*

Hymns: **976 (Projected) ~ 430 ~ 763**

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. May God richly bless your worship today! Please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you, and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Sadie Bickel, Emma Damman *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✠

### UPCOMING SERVICES

– Easter Sunday is two weeks away! Please plan to join us for services in the coming weeks. Invite friends and family to join also as we walk together through Holy Week and then celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection on Easter.

- Final Wednesday Service: 3/25 at 7 p.m.
- Palm Sunday Service: 3/29 at 9 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday Communion Service: 4/2 at 7 p.m.
- Good Friday Tenebrae Service: 4/3 at 7 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Services: 4/5 at 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

*Note: This year, Holy Communion will be celebrated at both the 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Easter services. There will be a breakfast and time of fellowship in between the two services as usual.*

*I was glad  
when they said  
to me, "Let us go  
to the house of  
the Lord!"  
Psalm 122:1*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:00 PM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "the LAMP"; Confirmation class meets until 11:15 <i>Gerald Busyfingers</i> 4-H Meeting
Mon.	10:00 AM 5:30 PM	Ladies' Bible Study <i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry Distribution
Tues.	<b>8:35 AM</b>	<b>School Chapel</b>
Wed.	7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Preschool Spring Conferences <b>Midweek Lenten Service</b> ; <i>Offering: The Filling Home</i> <i>Guest Preacher: Seminarian Josh Gerken</i> <i>Organist: Sharon Damman</i> <i>Acolyte: Zac Kramer</i> <i>Ushers: Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> <i>Altar Guild: Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Preschool Spring Conferences Men's Bible Breakfast
Fri.		School Family Movie Night
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "the LAMP"; Confirmation class meets until 11:15

**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES** – Please contact **Pastor Kramer** at 567-277-1339 with any emergency pastoral care requests.

**MATTERS FOR PRAYER** – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *Melba Elling* and *Norma Damman* at Genacross, Napoleon
- ❖ *Rozella Gruenhagen* and *Bob Nemoyer* at Vancrest, Holgate
- ❖ *Lois Arps*, at Genacross – Assisted Living, Napoleon
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost*, *Leona Durham*, and *Marlene Showman*
- ❖ *Brenda Elling*, *Anne Rausch*, and *Julie (Kern) Patterson* for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Stan Gerken* and *Rev. Ken Schroeder* for health concerns
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson*, *Jason Rohrs*, *Jordan Lange*, *Joshua*, and *Kyle*

**FINANCIAL FACTS:**

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/15/2026	\$6,358.62	\$230.00	\$267.00

ATTENDANCE: 125

Lent 3: Attendance - 66; Contributions for *Worship Anew* - \$1,886.00

**VENMO IS HERE!** Exciting News...St. John now accepts donations via Venmo!  
If you need internet access, use our guest Wi-Fi **SJL Open** with the password **sjleagles##** Then scan the QR code to visit our donation page.



**PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN’S PROCESSION** – Parents, please note that next Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, is Palm Sunday, and that the children will process into the sanctuary at the beginning of the service with palm branches in hand. There will also be a children’s message while the children are up front. Children should arrive ten or fifteen minutes before the service and head to the fellowship hall for their palm branches and instructions.

**EASTER FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST** – The sign-up sheet for our annual Easter Fellowship Breakfast is on the Narthex table. The breakfast will start around 8:15 a.m. between the Easter services on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The menu includes eggs, sausage, and hash browns. Thank you for helping in this way as we celebrate the joy of Easter together!

**YOUTH “MY DEVOTIONS” BOOKLETS** for March, April, and May are on the desk in the narthex. Pick one up for each of your children today!

**MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** – Men’s Bible Breakfast will meet on Thursday mornings in Lent at 6:30 AM. It’s a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and the good Word!

**WOMEN’S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** – We will meet in the Church Cry Room at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> for the last session of our *Women at the Cross* Bible study.

**LWML NAPOLEON ZONE RALLY** – When: Saturday April 25, 2025 | Where: St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1588 St. Route 108, Wauseon | Time: 8:30 to 11:15 a.m. | Flyers with details are available on the Narthex table.

**ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING** – Each year, we appoint three groups of members to help do a “spring clean” of the church. If you feel you are not physically able to help with the cleaning or have another reason you’d like taken off the list, please let the church office know, so we can make a note of that. If you’ve participated before, thank you! If this is your first time, we are excited to have you be a part of it. This is a great opportunity to serve the church while also enjoying a time of fellowship with those in your group.

**\*\* Group #2 will be cleaning this coming Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. \*\***

**BE A JAVA JOY HOST IN 2026!** Would you like to be a JAVA JOY host on the second Sunday of one of the months of 2026? Sign up now at the narthex table! Please remember that hosting does not need to cost you anything – you may reimburse yourself from the Java Joy kitty. Hosting guidelines are available with the sign-up sheet. Thank you for providing this service for your church family!

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2026 is posted in the narthex. To sign up for a certain Sunday to place flowers on the altar or the piano, sign your name on that Sunday, and then about two weeks before that date, call Nancy Glaser at 419-906-0963 to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of them. **The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$30.00.** It is your responsibility to contact Nancy Glaser. Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin.

**LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT** – *How You Can Help?* If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

**USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OR YOUTH CENTER** – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall or Youth Center for any occasion on a certain date this year, **please contact the church office at 419-598-8961**. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online church calendar at [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org) and click on “Calendar.”



## From the **Classroom** to the **Congregation**

*Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School*



**THANK YOU!** – The school would like to thank all of the church members who came to Pi Day with Prayer Pals on March 12<sup>th</sup>! It was a delightful way to end the school day. Our students enjoyed prayer and fellowship with the church members, and of course we all enjoyed the pie! A special thank you also goes to all of those who made and brought pies for the event.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Ryan Weddelman and Scarlet Wiechers for representing St. John at the Henry County Spelling Bee.

**FIELD TRIP FUN** – Students in grades 3–6 recently went on a field trip to Imagination Station in Toledo, made possible through a generous donation in honor of Mr. Petzoldt. What a wonderful way to celebrate his curiosity and love of science. The students had a great time, and many said the simulator was one of the best parts of the day.

**WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT EGG CARTONS** for the organization “Together We Can Make a Difference.” There is a collection box in the Narthex for clean, 12-count only egg cartons. Thank you.

### **AREA EVENTS**

- ❖ The **CPC Women’s Health Resource** is hosting its annual Spring Benefit on Tues., April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in Archbold. There will be testimonies of God's handiwork, a keynote speaker, a meal, and opportunities to support the ministry. Registration is required. For more info, search “CPC Women’s Health Resource” on Facebook, or call (419) 636-5692.
- ❖ **CAMP LUTERHAVEN** has opened registration for its summer programs. Programs are available for K-12 and families. For more information, visit [lutherhaven.org](http://lutherhaven.org). There are flyers on the Narthex table.

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*Thought for the Week...*

**With His wounds, we are healed.**